

From: jdca@capital.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/8/02 9:21am
Subject: Feedback on Microsoft Anti-Trust Case <Microsoft.atr@usdoj.gov>

To whom it may concern:

First of all let me say I'm glad to see that the DOJ has backed off somewhat on the severity of the penalty phase of this ant-trut trial. However, there are many in the software industry that will complain and raise issues no matter what the outcome. In particular I am talking about the Sun's and Oracles of the world. They are, in my opinion, a bunch of whiners.

Consumers have a choice in what OS and what apps they put on their desktop. It just so happens that Sun and Oracle are not preferred products for most home users and many businesses. The suite of applications for hte Windows environment is much, much larger than any of the other OS's because it's the most popular. There is a market in the Windows environment for software developers to create products. Microsoft should not be penalized for this.

In addition, as a software developer, Microsoft in no way controls the software development environment for Internet applications. In fact, they are a step behind the Sun's, Oracle's and Unix flavors of the world. One could just as easily build an enterprise on Solaris, Apache and Oracle DBMS applications as it could on Microsoft. A fact that MS realizes ala .NET.

Now that the desktop OS is moving in the direction of just an Internet browser, the playing field is definitely level. If there is to be any punitive damages directed toward Microsoft the focus must be narrowed down to a clear anti-trust issue and not directed at the company as a whole by breaking it up. Breaking the company up is a gross exaggeration of the intent of the anti-trust laws.

The anti-trust laws are outdated when it comes to technology and technology companies. What could be considered a monopoly one day may not even exist the next. Just look at Xerox, Apple (as it related to the Apple II), Texas Instruments. All were leaders in their respective industries at one time but are now just minor players in the global industry.

Thanks for taking this feedback.

Sincerely,
Jeff Yates
Albany, NY

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